

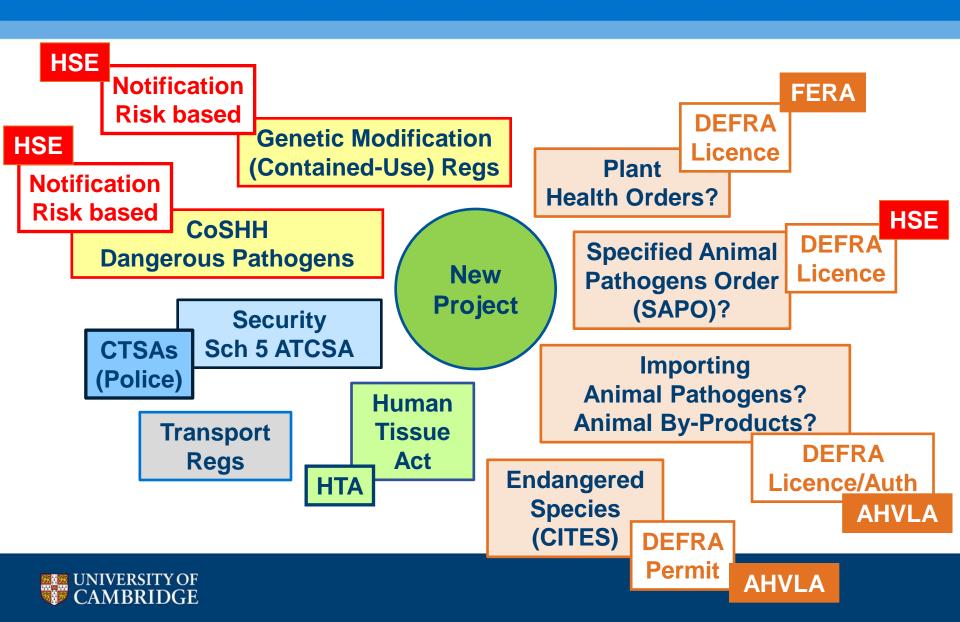
DEFRA, FERA and SAPO

What is Expected of a BSO?

Biological Safety Officers' Event 10 May 2011

Mark Elsdon – School of the Biological Sciences Safety Officer

Biologicals: There's a lot for Depts. to think about!



What is DEFRA?



Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

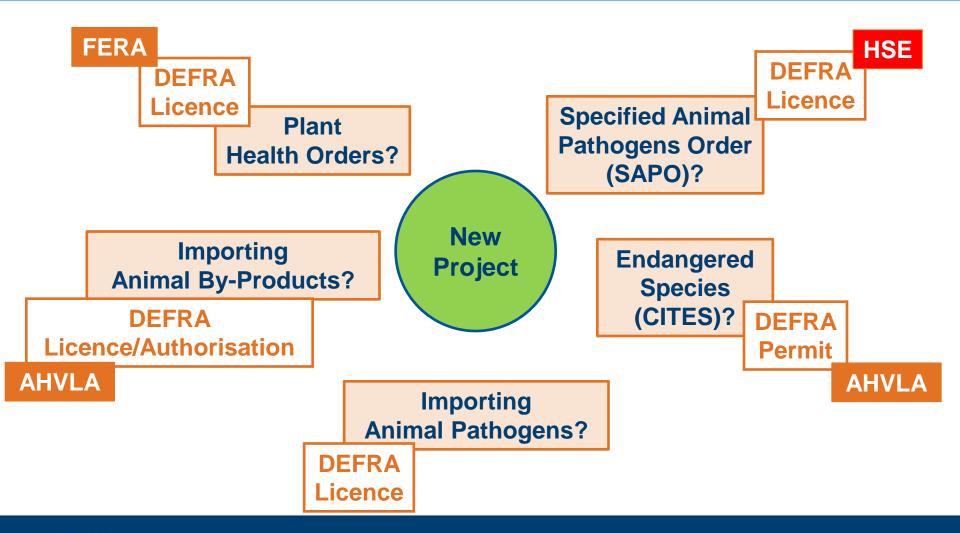
Government department

Responsible for

- Environmental protection
- Food productions and standards
- Agriculture, fisheries and rural communities
- Issues a range of Licences/Authorisations/Permits!

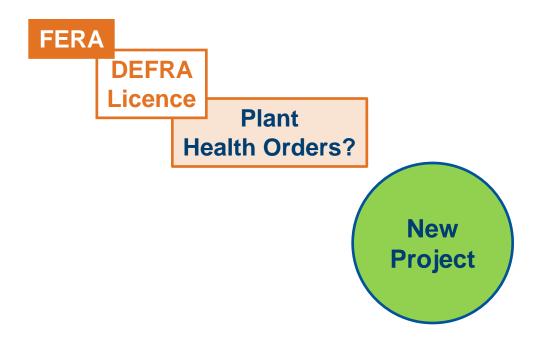


DEFRA & Biologicals: There's a lot to think about!





DEFRA / FERA & Plant Health



What is FERA?



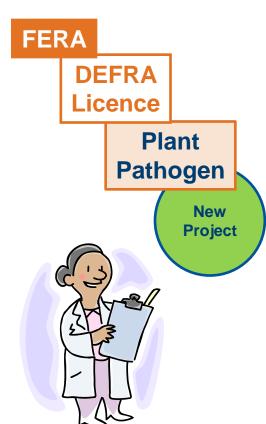
The Food & Environment Research Agency

A new EXECUTIVE AGENCY of Defra (April '09)

'Established to support & develop a sustainable food chain, a healthy natural environment, and to protect the global community from biological and chemical risks'



FERA & Plant Health



The Plant Health (England) Order 2005 / (Wales) Order 2006

Non-indigenous plant pests/pathogens and other materials (e.g. soils) require a licence. - Check with FERA!

Licence to Import, Move & Keep Prohibited Plant Pathogens

- Names 'Person(s) responsible'
- Specifies licensed material
- Containment reqs and work areas
- Destruction of pathogens and waste very specific!

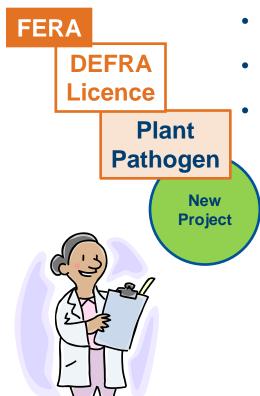
Annual Inspection & Review - FERA inspector: Sue Lacey

Examples (Nb non-indigenous strains)

- Erwinia carotovora (Soft rot/black leg in potatoes)
- Tomato Bushy Stunt Virus
- Turnip Crinkle Virus
- Cucumber Mosaic Virus



FERA & Plant Health



Keep records of licensed activities, monitor compliance

Report at Biological Safety Committee

Don't forget – CoSHH, GMO(CU) etc still apply

Explanatory Leaflet on the Issue of Licences for the Import,
Movement and Keeping of Prohibited Plants, Plant Material, Plant Pests,
Soil and Growing Medium

http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/forms/doc uments/plantHealth/DEF-PHI1-FERA-1.pdf



LANT HEALTH

The Plant Health (England) Order 2005 (as amended)
The Plant Health (Wales) Order 2006 (as amended)

The Plant Health (Wales) Order 2006 (as amended)
The Plant Health (Licence Fees) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996

Explanatory Leaflet on the Issue of Licences for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Prohibited Plants, Plant Material, Plant Pests, Soil and Growing Medium

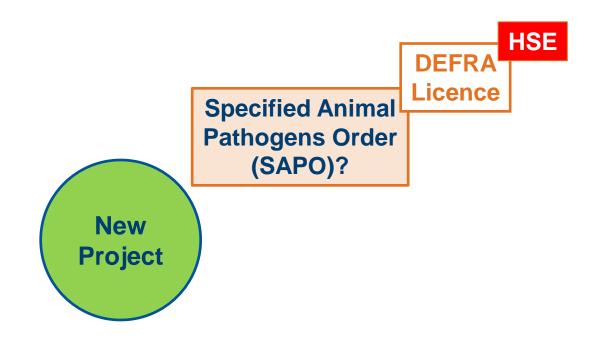
- Around the world there are many plant peets and diseases which, if they were to become established in Great Britain, could cause serious damage to our crops and plants. To guard against the spread of harmful organisms official controls apply to the import, movement and keeping of plants, plant peets and other material, e.g. soil. These controls are based on EC and UK legal provision.
- 2. Plant health controls include provision, subject to appropriate prescultions, for trials, scientific or varieties selection work on plants, plant pesta's sold and growing medium which would otherwise plants of the plant health (England) Order 2005, in Respect of Vales of England, and The Plant Health (England) Order 1905, in Respect of Vales in a coordance with Commission Directive 1905, which prescribes, inter also detailed quarantine and containment conditions to be applied as appropriate. The details contained in the Directive Interesting of the Plant Indiants of the Control of the Plant Indiants of the Plant Indiants of the Plant Indiants of the Plants of
- "Plant pest" means any living organism other than a vertebrate animal, in any stage of its existence, which is injurious or likely to be injurious to any plant or plant product.
- 3. This loaflet outlines the licensing procedures. It explains the charges payable in England and Wales for licences issued by The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), a well as procedures for issue of licences and letters of authority, and for plant passports or phytosanitary certificates, where appropriate.
- 4. Before you complete any application forms please read this leaflet and notes on the application forms very carefully if you are not clear on any points please do not healtate to seek advice from your local Fera Senior Plant Health and Seeds inspector (SPHSI). Contact details for all our offices are available on the Fera www.defra.gov.uk/fera/contactUs/ contactPhc.file



PHI 1 (Rev. 07/09



DEFRA & Biologicals: There's a lot to think about!



What is SAPO?

The Specified Animal Pathogens Order 2008 (Animal Health Act 1981)

- Purpose prevent introduction & spread of pathogens which could cause serious disease/economic loss to British Livestock/Poultry industries
- List of pathogens appear in the Schedule to the Order
- Includes GM and attenuated SAPs and nucleic acids from SAPs if introduced into another biological system and capable of replication



Examples:

- Trypanosoma brucei
- Bacillus anthracis
- Bluetongue virus





The SAPO Licence

- Applications made to DEFRA > HSE > DEFRA
- Inspected/enforced by HSE (2008: HSE now regulates human & animal pathogens following FMD Pirbright '07)
- Single SAPO licence for the University.
- Dr Martin Vinnell 'Nominated Licence Holder'
- Dept SAPO licences appear as an annex in main licence (x3)
- Wish to work with SAPOs? Notify Safety Office first!





The SAPO Licence

The Defra Animal Health Act 1981 SAPO 2008 Licence

- Names Licensee/Supervisor
- Identifies specific pathogen/carriers that can be held
- Containment reqs and specifies lab areas
- Destruction of pathogens and waste very specific!
- Valid ~5 years
- Expiry date!
 Criminal offence to hold SAPOs without valid licence!
- Inspection & review by HSE anytime & prior to renewal
- Other regs may still apply e.g GMO(CU), CoSHH etc





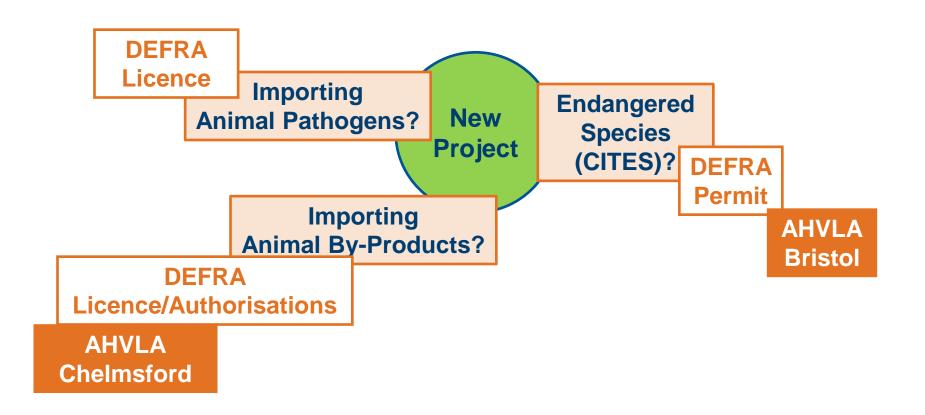
Licensed Activities & BSOs

- Unlike work with Dangerous Pathogens (CoSHH) or work with GMOs, licensed activities are not strictly risk based.
- Little flexibility. strict!
- Do EXACTLY what the licence & approved SOPs say!
- BSOs should be AWARE of licensed activities and controls
- Monitor compliance
- Ensure detailed records are being maintained
- Discuss at Biological Safety Committee
- Notify Safety Office / School Safety Officers of any Planned/Unplanned visits from Inspectors





DEFRA Import Licenses – VERY briefly!!!





DEFRA Import Licenses



Importation of Animal Pathogens Order 1980 (IAPO)

- Prohibits importation into England from a third country of any animal pathogen or carrier except under the authority of a licence.
- Apply direct to Defra 'Pathogens Licensing Team'

Contact info

Pathogens Licensing Team

Defra

London SW1P 3JR.

Telephone No. 020 7238 6211/6195

Email: pathogens@defra.gsi.gov.uk



What is AHVLA?



Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency

A new EXECUTIVE AGENCY of Defra (April '11)

- Safeguarding animal health & welfare & public health
- Food security through research, surveillance and inspection

Global responsibilities

- Reference lab for exotic and notifiable diseases
- Protecting CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) through wildlife registration and licencing role



DEFRA Import Licences



The Animal By-Products Regulations 2011

- Licences/Authorisations required to import certain animals/products of animal origin
- "General" licences /authorisations on Defra website
- "Specific" licences must be applied for if material not in GL

Contact info

International Trade Centre for Imports
Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratory Agency, Chelmsford
Tel 01245 454860

Email: AHITChelmsford@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk



DEFRA Import Licenses



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

- EU CITES list >25,000 species animals & plants protected
- "Parts and derivatives" too!
- e.g. Importation elephant (Loxodonta africana) tissue samples

Contact info

Wildlife Licensing & Registration Service (WLRS)

AHVLA Bristol

Email: wildlife.licensing@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk

Web: http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/cites





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